

Rocky Hill Board of Education
Minutes of April 28, 2004

- Call to order: President Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
- N.J. Sunshine Law: The N.J. Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Rocky Hill Board of Education has notified in writing, the Princeton Packet and the Messenger Gazette. Notice was also posted at Borough Hall, the Post Office and the Public Library.
- Roll Call: Dineen, Petrane, Solazzo & Zimmerman were present.
- Minutes: D. Solazzo moved to accept the minutes of March 10, 2004 Special Meeting and the March 31, 2004 Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting, seconded by D. Dineen, with C. Petrane abstaining, motion carried.
- Financial Reports: D. Dineen moved to accept the following financial reports, seconded by D. Solazzo, motion carried.
- A-148 Report of the Secretary
A-149 Report of the Treasurer
- Correspondence: The board reviewed the following:
- Montgomery Bd. of Education-Agenda for 4/13 & 4/27/04
Minutes of 3/9, 3/23 & 3/30/04
Sea Bright Bd. of Education-Non-Operating Resolution
Scarinci & Hollenbeck-Review of Montgomery/Rocky Hill Send/Receive Agreement
- Old Business: none
- New Business:
1. D. Dineen moved to approve the Ten Year (2003-4 to 2012-2013) Sending/Receiving Agreement between the Rocky Hill Borough Board of Education and the Montgomery Township Board of Education as reviewed by Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC, seconded by D. Solazzo, motion carried.
 2. D. Dineen moved to adopt the following resolution regarding Non-Operating School Districts, seconded by D. Solazzo, all ayes on a roll call vote, motion carried.
- WHEREAS, 23 school districts in the State of New Jersey are labeled as being “non-operating,” and
- WHEREAS, this label implies that elected boards of education in these communities have no functional purpose, and
- WHEREAS, a “non-operating” school district is a school district as defined in NJSA 18A:10-1, with all the duties and responsibilities assigned to that designation, and
- WHEREAS, these board of education members are duly elected by the voters of the municipality that they represent and charged with the responsibility of the education of the children in their communities by negotiating tuition agreements with other local and private education agencies, and
- WHEREAS, these boards of education must approve annual budgets, tuition contracts, transportation agreements and act on other related issues, and
- WHEREAS, Governor McGreevey has stated that he thinks “ it’s outrageous that we have 23 school bureaucracies that don’t have a single school” and has directed NJ Education Commissioner Librera to “ develop a plan to eliminate the 23 school district bureaucracies that oversee nothing but their own existence,” and

WHEREAS, Deputy Commissioner Dwight Pfennig stated at a meeting on March 18, 2004, that the NJ Department of Education is recommending that those “non-operating” boards of education be dissolved and that all of the duties and responsibilities of said boards be transferred to the municipalities of those districts, and

WHEREAS, there are clear conflicts of interest in the municipalities assuming those responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, there will be no savings but possibly a cost to the taxpayers to implement the Department’s plan as described, and

WHEREAS, this proposal to eliminate the so called “non-operating” districts’ boards of education in our state is based on little, if any, understanding or impact of the efficiency and effectiveness of these local education agencies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rocky Hill Board of Education Charges the NJ Department of Education and Governor McGreevey to clearly demonstrate that:

1. the dissolution of a non-operating district Board of Education or any Board of Education by the State of New Jersey is legal and not contrary to State Statute and/or Code,
2. there is no conflict of interest in designating the municipality of such districts to operate the school district with all its duties and responsibilities,
3. that there will be no negative impact on the children of these communities and their educational program,
4. there will be significant savings to the taxpayers of such districts by the implementation of this plan,
5. this plan will not disenfranchise the voters of those districts by not allowing them to determine those persons that they want to be responsible for the education of their children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution as adopted be transmitted to Governor McGreevey, Commissioner Librera, NJSBA, NJASBO and the Legislative Representatives of the NJ State Senate and Assembly, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill, the Montgomery Twp. Board of Education and the other 22 “non-operating” districts in New Jersey.

3. D. Solazzo moved to adopt the following resolution, seconded by C. Petrane, motion carried.

Whereas, Mary Regan-Seither dedicated her time and services to the children of Rocky Hill Borough and the Rocky Hill Borough Board of Education, and

Whereas, her dedication served as a model of service to the community

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Rocky Hill Borough Board of Education does hereby extend its appreciation and gratitude to Mary Regan-Seither.

4. D. Solazzo moved to approve a Tuition Contract with the Solebury School in the amount of \$ 20,500 plus transportation for the 2004-05 school year, as recommended by the Montgomery CST, seconded by D. Dineen, motion carried.

5. D. Solazzo moved to approve the Certification of the Board Secretary-Pursuant to NJAC 6:20-2.13(d), I, F.G. Chilson, certify that as of March 31, 2004, no budgetary line item account has obligations or payments (contractual orders) which in total exceeds the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1, seconded by D. Dineen, motion carried.

6. D. Solazzo moved to approve the Certification of the Board of Education-Pursuant to NJAC 6:20-2-2.13 (e), we certify that as of March 31, 2004 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6:20-2-2.13 (b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the districts financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year, seconded by D. Dineen, motion carried.

7. D. Dineen moved to authorize the President send letters to our official Newspapers, the Borough, The Assembly and Senate asking for support against Governor McGreevey's attempt to abolish our non-operating board of education, seconded by D. Solazzo, motion carried.

Vouchers: D. Dineen moved to approve payment of the Bill List, seconded by D. Solazzo, motion carried.

1269 Solebury School (May tuition)	\$ 2,140.00
1270 Midland School (May tuition)	6,510.00
1271 NJN Publishing (Budget legal ad)	117.08
1272 Star Printing (Voting Authorities)	142.00
1273 Universal Mailing Service (sample ballots)	38.76
1274 Fed Ex (postage)	22.63
1275 Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC (legal services)	42.00
1276 N. Metcalf (contracted service)	166.67
1277 F. Chilson (salary)	783.77
PERS Electronic	<u>38.50</u>
Total	\$ 10,001.41

Reports: D. Dineen reported on Montgomery's Organization Meeting. May 3-7 is Teacher Appreciation Week. She informed the board that Montgomery would be accepting donations to fund their new field and it will be called Patrons Stadium.

Public Discussion: E. Zimmerman commented that the Borough Council has discussed supporting our board against the Governor's plan to abolish the board of education.

C. Hallman also supported our board.

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 26, 2004 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn: D. Solazzo moved to adjourn at 7:54 p.m., seconded by D. Dineen, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank G. Chilson
Board Secretary